

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In concurrent incremental garbage collectors a futile condition may exist where the collector never finishes collecting an old train. The present invention provides an expanded collection set of a younger car with an object referenced from another train. That
5 reference will be found by scanning the remembered sets of other car. If no such younger car is found, then a younger car with an external reference may be added to the collection set. One of these other cars is added to the collection set and, if there are no other changes, the collection will reduce the volume in the train being collected and therefore break the futile situation.